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**U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK RESULTS FOR WEST VIRGINIA**

***Take-Back Initiative Collects More Than 3100 Pounds of Unwanted Prescription Medications Statewide; Surpasses
September's Total***

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - U.S. Attorney R. Booth Goodwin II and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Resident Agent in Charge Dennis Bolum jointly announced today that as a result of the April 30 Prescription Drug Take-Back event in West Virginia, a total of 3178 pounds of prescription drugs were collected statewide. The results of the second Take-Back exceed last September's statewide total of 2404 pounds of prescription drugs.

The southern half of the state netted 1,824 pounds of unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs from citizens and households. The collection results for the southern half of West Virginia surpass its September total of 1,199 pounds of prescriptions.

"Last week's Take-Back proves yet again that West Virginians want to be part of the solution to the prescription drug crisis," U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin said. "Citizens from around this district have embraced our efforts to rid medicine cabinets of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. Taking old prescriptions out of homes eliminates one major avenue through which they fall into the wrong hands," Goodwin continued.

The Take-Back provided more than 100 sites throughout West Virginia to accept expired, unused and unwanted medications.

DEA Resident Agent in Charge Bolum stated, "Prescription drug abuse has plagued so many of our communities. To have people voluntarily take prescriptions out of their homes and dispose of them properly truly helps our fight against prescription drug abuse. I commend all of the federal, state and local partners in West Virginia for their assistance, which has made this second Take-Back a success."

According to the DEA, last September Americans turned in more than 242,000 pounds of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites. The April 30 National Prescription Drug Take-Back hosted more than 5,100 sites nationwide in an effort to prevent pill abuse and theft.

Goodwin noted that seventy percent of people who use prescription drugs for non-medical purposes get the drugs from friends or a family member. "We have a four-point plan in place to eliminate prescription drug abuse. Proper drug disposal is an essential part of that strategy. We will continue to work diligently to make sure that citizens have an opportunity to get rid of their unused prescriptions."

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